

he would be subject to a suit for slander. Certainly truth would not be a defense. The Senator from Wyoming uttered a slanderous statement. He is protected by the speech and debate clause of the Constitution of the United States, and that is about the only place he could make slanderous statements like that with impunity.

The Senator from Wyoming says his "second opinion" is that Congress should repeal the new health care law—just repeal it. But by calling for repeal of health care reform, the Senator from Wyoming apparently seeks to repeal one of the biggest budget reduction measures in the decade. I say that because the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office tells us that health care reform will reduce the Federal deficit by one-half of 1 percent of GDP in its second decade. It will reduce the deficit.

I would think the Senator from Wyoming would like to reduce the Federal budget deficit. I am quite certain he wants to reduce the Federal budget deficit. But if he asks for repeal of health care reform, I guess he no longer cares about reducing our Federal budget deficit.

By calling for repeal of health care reform, the Senator from Wyoming seeks to repeal the law that reins in insurance companies. Boy, in the private market there is just so much abuse of individuals by insurance companies. By calling for the repeal of health care reform, apparently the Senator from Wyoming wants to bring back the ability of insurance companies to discriminate against people who have preexisting conditions, to discriminate against Americans who are denied insurance based upon some health care status or to go back and deal with the rating provisions of States where the States, unfortunately, allowed insurance companies to take advantage of certain groups of people.

By calling for repeal of health care reform, apparently he seeks to bring back the doughnut hole and preserve it in the future. He seeks to continue hardships for seniors who need help paying for their prescriptions.

Madam President, this health care reform bill closes the doughnut hole. What is the doughnut hole? That is the dollar amounts above which and under which people have to pay all their prescription drug benefits. When they get up to the doughnut hole, they get a certain break. When they get above the doughnut hole, I guess 90 percent of their drugs are paid for—something like that.

But within the doughnut hole, if you are a senior, you do not get any help. Apparently, the Senator from Wyoming says: Oh, that is fine. Those people don't deserve to get any breaks in their prescription drug benefits. He wants to repeal health care reform, so the effect of that would be: Seniors, you are not going to get any help. Sorry. No help in the doughnut hole.

By calling for repeal of health care reform, the Senator from Wyoming

seeks to eliminate the tax credits that the new law will give Americans to help them buy insurance. I guess he does not care about that, the Senator from Wyoming. He does not want to give people tax credits. He does not want to give people tax credits to help them buy insurance.

And by calling for repeal of health care reform, the Senator seeks nothing less than the continuation of a system where millions of Americans struggle, struggle by, struggle without health insurance, struggle without quality health care. They struggle because of greater pain and discomfort and greater risk of early death.

I could go on and on and on and on as to the reasons the Senator from Wyoming's so-called second opinion is defective, to say the least. I know some on the other side oppose health care reform. But this is, as I mentioned earlier, a democracy. In our country, the majority generally determines whether a law passes. Congress and the President enacted health care reform, and I wish my colleagues on the other side of the aisle would just stop fighting the last war—stop fighting the last war. Rather, let us try to find opportunities to work together to improve the law together. Let's leave behind the politics of destruction. Let's work together to build a better health care system for America because, after all, we are here to help the people who sent us here. The people who sent us here want a better health care system than they now have.

So let's work together to find that better solution. Let's not forget that health care is basically indiscriminate. Poor people, wealthy people get cancer. Women, men get cancer. Cancer strikes anybody. It does not make a difference whether you are a Republican or a Democrat. The same thing is true with any other health discomfort or condition.

So I am just beside myself in trying to figure out why it is that the other side of the aisle just keeps attacking health care reform. The only conclusion I can come up with is they just want to stir up things. They want to cast all kinds of doubt and confusion in the minds of Americans, with respect to perhaps these elections coming up this next November. That is a conclusion I do not like to reach but, logically, it is the only one I can possibly come up with.

I will say something else. This health care reform is going to be relitigated again when we in the Finance Committee take up the nomination of Don Berwick to be the new CMS Director. I know, as sure as I am standing here, those who voted against health care reform—and they all happen to be Republicans—are going to be just relitigating health care reform. They are going to accuse this administration of about anything under the Sun, including Don Berwick. It is going to be very unfortunate. It is my job—it is going to have to be as chairman of the committee—to

try to keep the debate, if you will—it will not even be a debate; in part, it will be a diatribe in certain circumstances—to just keep the discussion, the debate on a constructive level so we can serve our country and serve our people. But I felt compelled to speak in the wake of the remarks by the Senator from Wyoming because they deserved a response.

Madam President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, we have had an interesting start today on the jobs-tax bill, but it has been fruitful and productive. We have four amendments pending. That is progress. Tomorrow, I want to move ahead and clear out the underbrush, if you will, to get those amendments disposed of. I have spoken with the leader, and we have agreed that it makes good sense to get those four amendments processed tomorrow morning before we do much else and that we go to other amendments subsequent to that. I hope we can get those amendments processed so that we can proceed.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

JOSH MILLER HEARTS ACT

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, half of heart-related deaths in the United States are caused by a hard-to-diagnose condition called sudden cardiac arrest, SCA. Different from a heart attack, SCAs are caused by an electrical problem in the heart that, once triggered, requires immediate treatment: survival rates plummet 7 to 10 percent with every minute that passes. Each year, only 8 percent of the 295,000 people who suffer an SCA outside of a hospital survive. A few years ago, June 1–June 7 was designated as CPR/AED Awareness Week to share these startling statistics and to begin to change them. By educating and encouraging communities to establish organized programs that could provide CPR and AED training to the public, lives have already been saved. Anyone can suffer a sudden cardiac arrest, no matter one's age or gender. In fact, many victims appear healthy, not having a known heart disease or any other risk factors. For example, student athletes with no previous heart ailments